



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 358
[2005 Senate Bill 515]

**Certification of Woman-Owned
Businesses**

2005 Wisconsin Act 358 requires the Department of Commerce to implement a program to certify woman-owned businesses.

Under current federal law, a business that is at least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by a woman and has been certified by a federal or state agency or by a national certifying entity is given certain preferences by the federal government in the federal procurement process. Currently, Commerce certifies minority-owned businesses but not woman-owned businesses.

The Act requires Commerce to implement a program for the certification of any sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, or corporation that is at least 51% owned, controlled, and actively managed by a woman and is performing a useful business function in this state as a “woman-owned business.” A certification processing fee of no more than \$50 may be charged to an applicant. Commerce is required to compile and periodically update a list of the certified businesses and make it available to the public. Commerce may promulgate emergency rules to implement the Act without an emergency finding. The emergency rules will remain in effect until March 1, 2007 or the date on which permanent rules take effect, whichever is sooner.

Effective Date: The Act took effect on May 3, 2006.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.